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0 150608Z OCT 96 FM AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4968 INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE AMCONSUL SHANGHAI AIT TAIPEI 5503

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CONFIDENTIAL GUANGZHOU 008134

BEIJING PASS CHENGDU

AMCONSUL SHENYANG

E.O. 12958: DECL: (1.6X6) TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, CH

SUBJECT: GUANGZHOU'S MOST FAMOUS DISSIDENT ESCAPES CHINA

REF: (A) GUANGZHOU 7196 (B) GUANGZHOU 6128 (C) 95 GUANGZHOU 6953 (D) BEIJING 38000

1. CLASSIFIED BY HOWARD KRAWITZ, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OFFICER. REASON: 1.5(B) X6.

(C) AS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE HONG KONG PRESS. GUANGZHOU DISSIDENT WANG XIZHE ESCAPED TO HONG KONG SOMETIME LAST WEEK. WANG, A PERSISTENT CRITIC OF THE GOVERNMENT SINCE 1974, AND BEIJING DISSIDENT LIU XIAOBO HAD RECENTLY CO-AUTHORED AN ARTICLE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF PRC POLICIES. THE FOUR-PART ARTICLE, CONCEIVED AND LARGELY DRAFTED WHEN LIU MET WITH WANG IN GUANGZHOU THIS PAST SUMMER, ATTACKED PRC POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN, ADVOCATED TIBETAN AUTONOMY, SCORNED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS SYSTEM, AND CRITICIZED THE PRC'S SOFT POLICY ON THE DIADYU ISLANDS. IN ANOTHER JAB, WANG AND LIU OFFICIALLY RELEASED THE ARTICLE ON THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S OCTOBER 10 ANNIVERSARY. //COMMENT. NO PART OF THE ARTICLE WOULD HAVE ENDEARED WANG AND LIU TO AUTHORITIES, BUT THE SWIPE OVER THE DIAGYU ISLANDS PROBABLY HIT A PARTICULAR NERVE. END COMMENT.//

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4. (C) WANG WAS GUANGZHOU'S ONLY "NAME" DISSIDENT AND THE CENTRAL FIGURE OF THE VERY SMALL GROUP OF STUDENTS AND INTELECTUALS HERE OPENLY CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY. HIS DEPARTURE LEAVES LITTLE VOCAL CONSTITUENCY FOR THESE ISSUES IN SOUTH CHINA. EVEN WANG'S ESCAPE HIGHLIGHTED GUANGDONG'S OPEN MEDIA, HOWEVER. A HONG KONG NEWS CREW WAS ABLE TO FILM WANG'S WIFE, SU JIANG, IN GUANGZHOU DESCRIBING HER CONCERN FOR WANG. THESE REMARKS AND OTHER NEWS OF WANG'S ESCAPE WERE UNCENSORED ON LOCAL BROADCASTS OF THE HONG KONG NEWS.

KRAWITZ

NOTE: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE(S)

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